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Implementation of recommendations on the six mandated areas of the Permanent Forum and on the Millennium Development Goals

Information received from the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations

I. United Nations Forum on Forests, Department of Economic and Social Affairs**

II. International Organization for Migration**

Summary

The present document comprises two reports. The first has been prepared by the United Nations Forum on Forests, which provides a brief overview of the work currently undertaken by the Forum and aspects that are related to indigenous peoples' issues. The second report, that of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), responds to the recommendations from the report on the sixth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. The present report also references activities undertaken or being planned by IOM that are of specific relevance to the Permanent Forum.

* E/C.19/2008/1.

** The submission of the present document was delayed in order to include the most recent information.

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I. United Nations Forum on Forests

1. In 2006, the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2006/49, added three new principal functions to the work of the United Nations Forum on Forests, one of which is to encourage and assist countries in increasing the area of forests under sustainable management and reducing forest degradation with a view to enhancing the benefits of forests in order to meet present and future needs, in particular the needs of indigenous peoples and local communities whose livelihoods depend on forests.

2. The General Assembly adopted the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests on 17 December 2007 (see resolution 62/98, annex). This landmark decision significantly advances efforts to monitor the state of the world's forests and secure long-term political commitment to sustainable forest management. The instrument contains the following four global objectives on forests:

(a) Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation;

(b) Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest-dependent people;

(c) Increase significantly the area of protected forests and other sustainably managed forests, and increase the proportion of forest products derived from sustainably managed forests;

(d) Reverse the decline in official development assistance for sustainable forest management and mobilize significantly increased new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of sustainable forest management.

3. In addition, the instrument contains a number of provisions specifically related to indigenous peoples' issues, as follows:

(a) With reference to national policies, paragraph 6 (f) states that Member States should support the protection and use of traditional forest-related knowledge and practices in sustainable forest management with the approval and the involvement of the holders of such knowledge and promote fair and equitable sharing of benefits out of their utilization, according to national legislation and relevant international agreements;

(b) Paragraph 6 (h) states that Member States should create enabling environments for the involvement of indigenous and local communities in sustainable forest management through a framework of policies, incentives and regulations;

(c) Paragraph 6 (s) states that Member States should promote the development and application of scientific and technological innovations, including those that can be used by forest owners and local and indigenous communities to advance sustainable forest management;

(d) Paragraph 6 (v) states that Member States should support education, training and extension programmes involving local and indigenous communities,

forest workers and forest owners, in order to develop resource management approaches that will reduce the pressure on forests, particularly fragile ecosystems;

(e) Paragraph 6 (y) states that Member States should enhance access by households, small-scale forest owners, forest-dependent local and indigenous communities, living in and outside forest areas, to forest resources and relevant markets in order to support livelihoods and income diversification from forest management, consistent with sustainable forest management;

(f) Finally, in reference to international cooperation, paragraph 7 (k) states that Member States should enhance and facilitate access to and transfer of appropriate, environmentally sound and innovative technologies and corresponding know-how relevant to sustainable forest management and to efficient value-added processing of forest products, in particular to developing countries, for the benefit of local and indigenous communities.

4. Thus, the instrument reflects substantial recognition and concern for the rights and needs of local and indigenous communities. A copy of the instrument is available on the website of the Forum.[1] In addition to the instrument, the Forum also adopted a multi-year programme of work in 2007 that will guide its deliberations until the year 2015. From the present until 2015, at each biennial session, the Forum will consider implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and the four global objectives on forests in addition to implementation of sustainable forest management and previous decisions and resolutions of the Forum and the proposals of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests and its successor, the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests, for action.

5. In the multi-year programme of work, Member States also decided to appoint themes for each of the future sessions of the Forum. While the themes of all sessions include certain aspects of issues related to indigenous people, the ninth session (in 2011) will focus primarily on social aspects, including indigenous and community issues. At its next session, which will be held in 2009 on the theme "Forests in a changing environment", the Forum will address three major issues:

(a) Forests and climate change;

(b) Combating the loss of forest cover, forest degradation and desertification;

(c) Forests and biodiversity conservation, including protected areas.

The Forum will also address means of implementation and a possible financial mechanism as well as forest-related law enforcement and governance at that session.

6. At its ninth session, in 2011, the Forum will focus on the theme "Forests for people, livelihoods and poverty eradication", and will address:

(a) Community-based forest management;

(b) Social development and forest-dependent indigenous and other local communities, including land tenure;

(c) Social and cultural aspects of forests.

7. The General Assembly also decided that 2011 would be the International Year of Forests, and the Forum will include celebrations of the year at its ninth session. A

[1] See www.un.org/esa/forests.

midterm review will also take place in 2011. In 2013, the Forum will discuss forests and economic development, and in 2015 it will undertake a comprehensive review of its work. A full description of the multi-year programme of work for the Forum is also available on its website.

8. Sessions of the Forum include interactive multi-stakeholder dialogues that have proved to be a very effective medium to bring together different interest groups and Member States. The indigenous peoples major group has been an active participant in such dialogues, and the Forum looks forward to the active engagement of indigenous peoples in all its forthcoming sessions.

II. International Organization for Migration

Introduction

9. At the global level, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) will publish a paper on the nexus between indigenous peoples and migration. At the field level, IOM is engaged with indigenous peoples, Governments and various partner organizations in developing and implementing projects that respond to the particular needs of indigenous peoples and are culturally appropriate.

A. Response to recommendations addressed exclusively to the International Organization for Migration

10. In the report on its sixth session, the Permanent Forum addressed recommendation 24 to IOM (see E/2007/43, para. 24). Since 2006, the reparations programmes of IOM have provided expert advice and technical assistance to the National Commission for Reparations and Reconciliation of Colombia in developing procedures and setting up regional offices to fulfil its mandate to assist victims of violence in obtaining reparations. While highlighting that indigenous peoples need particular assistance in the areas of reparations and rehabilitation, in 2007 IOM recommended the establishment of a specific office of the Commission to guide and coordinate its work for indigenous victims. The Chairman of the Commission agreed at the time with this recommendation.

11. IOM continues to stand committed to offer its expertise and technical assistance to Governments that request such services, and its reparations programme will continue to include the needs of indigenous populations in all of its contacts, outreach and project development activities.

12. In response to recommendation 17 of the Permanent Forum in the report on its fifth session (see E/2006/43, para. 17), IOM and its counterparts on the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues decided at its annual meeting to establish a migration contact group within the support group to identify relevant ongoing work within individual agencies and to strategize on how to raise the specific issues of indigenous peoples within the migration debate. The representative of IOM was appointed as the group's convenor.

B. Response to recommendations addressed to one or more agencies or to the United Nations system in general

13. In response to the Permanent Forum's recommendations to the Inter-Agency Support Group and international organizations, IOM works in cooperation with other members of the Group to maximize collaboration, avoid duplication and advance joint efforts to strengthen work on data collection and identification of indicators relevant to indigenous peoples. Additionally, IOM supports efforts to integrate indigenous issues into development frameworks and supports partnerships to ensure the protection of, and respect for, indigenous peoples' rights and the realization of their visions of development with respect for their culture and identity. IOM would also ensure that programmes are culturally appropriate and include the full and effective participation as well as the free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples.

14. The response of IOM to recommendation 68 of the Permanent Forum in the report on its fifth session (see E/2006/43, para. 68) is discussed in sections D and E below. As a project-based, decentralized, intergovernmental organization, lack of core funding hampers the implementation of this recommendation by IOM.

15. In response to recommendation 80 of the Permanent Forum in the report on its sixth session (see E/2007/43, para. 80), as previously noted, IOM and its counterparts in the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues decided at their annual meeting to establish a migration contact group within the Support Group.

C. Response to the Permanent Forum's special emphasis on indigenous children and youth, indigenous women, data collection and disaggregation and free, prior and informed consent

16. The projects highlighted under section G below encapsulate a number of IOM activities which are relevant to those areas.

D. Obstacles to implementation of recommendations of the Permanent Forum

17. IOM is a project-based organization. Lack of core resources to address issues related to indigenous peoples and migration can be overcome only by donor support through project funding.

E. Facilitating factors for the implementation of recommendations of the Permanent Forum

18. With more than 300 field offices globally, IOM has a presence in nearly every country. However, each office is supported by donors through project funding. Further identification and support from donors with an interest in indigenous issues, along with a mandate from the national/local government, would further facilitate the implementation by IOM of the recommendations of the Permanent Forum, along with further activities with indigenous peoples.

F. Policies on indigenous peoples' issues

19. Over the past two years, IOM has increased its engagement on indigenous issues in a number of ways that are highlighted under section G below. IOM joined the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues in 2006, bringing a migration perspective to the group. Furthermore, a number of IOM missions work with indigenous communities in a participatory fashion to allow their free, prior and informed consent on activities as well as their inputs on the design and implementation of projects. IOM-Colombia is developing and implementing a strategy that offers a sensitive intervention framework to the interests and experiences of ethnic groups, including indigenous communities, to counteract existing inequalities and to obtain equal political, economic, social and cultural benefits. Further information on IOM-Colombia is included in section G below.

G. Information regarding recent programmes, budgetary allocations or projects/activities regarding indigenous peoples' issues

20. In 2008, IOM will launch a publication entitled "Indigenous routes: framework for understanding indigenous migration", which will analyse the nexus between indigenous peoples and migration. The publication will examine many of the migration routes of indigenous peoples, with a focus on transborder migration, and will highlight the many challenges faced by indigenous peoples when forced to migrate from their territories. The publication, which also consider the opportunities that informed migration may bring to indigenous migrants and their communities, will be made available during the seventh session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in April 2008.

21. The mandate of IOM is to help ensure the orderly and humane management of migration, to promote international cooperation on migration issues, to assist in the search for practical solutions to migration problems and to provide humanitarian assistance to migrants in need, be they displaced persons or other uprooted people. IOM is highly decentralized and service-oriented. As part of this field-driven approach, IOM field missions have developed and implemented various projects relevant to, and in partnership with, indigenous peoples and have undertaken efforts to ensure that all projects are culturally appropriate and sensitive. By way of illustration, the following paragraphs describe a sampling of IOM projects at the field level that involve indigenous peoples.

Chile

22. During 2007, IOM-Santiago provided resource administration to the national Corporation for Indigenous Development under the Ministry of Planning. In addition to that agreement, IOM-Chile is a past and current participant in the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues and the Inter-Agency Working Group on Human Rights Issues, both related to United Nations agencies operating in Chile. The latter group is working on the implementation of the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples after his visit to Chile in 2003. For the moment, the group is preparing a round-table meeting with the Government, civil society and United Nations agencies to share opinions about the implementation of the Special Rapporteur's recommendations. Because of the

importance of those issues, this specific group, which comprises indigenous peoples, was created to work directly with those communities. Until now its main function was to include indigenous concerns in the agenda of the various agencies.

Costa Rica

23. In May 2007, the IOM-Costa Rica innovative project to improve the health of indigenous coffee pickers in southern Costa Rica, Finca Sana, was awarded $199,842 at the highly competitive World Bank Development Marketplace Competition. Less than 1 per cent of the 2,900 proposals originally submitted were funded after a long process which included jury interviews at the World Bank headquarters in Washington, D.C. Finca Sana aims to improve the health of members of the Ngöbe-Buglé indigenous tribe who migrate into Costa Rica from Panama each year to pick coffee. Project innovations include the inclusion of traditional healers as health promoters, a telehealth component to link them to local health workers and an emergency transport system. The model of care is also designed to be mobile, following the migrants as they move with the coffee harvest.

24. The Finca Sana project was developed together with local health authorities, the Costa Rica Social Security Fund and the public-health system of the region of Coto Brus to arrange for mobile teams to visit farms near the border since 2003. IOM and the Costa Rica Social Security Fund jointly developed the proposal, which supports and expands the mobile team efforts, while expanding activities to include local health promoters along the migration route. IOM and its partners began activities along the border in August 2007, at the start of the coffee season. The project will be carried out over the next two years.

25. An important new element of the Finca Sana project is that it will expand the health network to include indigenous people themselves, who are leaders, midwives and healers. IOM-Costa Rica is promoting communication in both directions between the target population and health authorities when previously the interaction was very top-down and non-participatory. Given the complexities of this intercultural interaction, indigenous peoples are being empowered and are substantially involved in projects.

26. IOM-Costa Rica is jointly identifying many needs of this group of coffee pickers including those of literacy, education, malnutrition, living conditions, labour rights and gender-based violence. With its partners, IOM-Costa Rica is working to identify new opportunities to jointly apply for funding to increase collaboration and avoid duplication. One proposal is to support a small cultural education project that is led by some health promoters, including indigenous leaders, on indigenous territories within Costa Rica. Currently, a small one-room school, for which IOM is seeking funds to expand, hosts Ngobere language classes as well as classes on traditional crafts, culture and history. IOM-Costa Rica is currently drafting proposals to support and expand these activities. With a longer-term goal to carry out coordination at the local level with health partners on both sides of the border, a future phase of this project may include expanded activities in Panama, particularly in Comarca in 2008.

27. Activities developed by IOM-Costa Rica are most related to Millennium Development Goals 4 (reduction of child mortality) and 5 (improvement of maternal health), with the objective to identify health emergencies of the most vulnerable, such as pregnant women and small children. About one third of the indigenous

community are children and another third are women, and most are assisted with transport to emergency care. Recognizing that access to health services for the Ngöbe-Buglé is extremely limited, and that because many indigenous workers are mostly undocumented they visit emergency rooms only when absolutely necessary, IOM-Costa Rica is working with health promoters to support mobile teams to address the health needs of this community, including better medical follow-up. Since the mobile teams often cannot visit each farm more than once, and parasites and malnutrition are a serious problem, IOM-Costa Rica's network of health promoters are able to follow up cases of child malnutrition. This project will be evaluated to assess its impact against a baseline health survey focused on maternal and child health.

28. With regard to activities related to data collection and disaggregation, IOM-Costa Rica is carrying out rigorous monitoring and evaluation activities, including a baseline survey focused on maternal and child health, already developed for use with indigenous populations in Central America. The survey has already undergone testing and is currently being carried out.

Ecuador

29. The activities of the IOM in Ecuador focus on support to indigenous Awa and Chachi communities and Afro-Ecuadorian communities through its Northern Border Development Programme. During the first months of the programme in 2002, its objective was to strengthen civil society through concrete activities that would contribute its development and allow its members to confront the existing challenges in the region. Other parts of the programme included strengthening organizational and leadership aspects, developing conflict resolution skills, promotion of sustainable development, gender participation and development of small production projects.

30. Past activities of IOM-Ecuador include the provision of support for the strengthening of the social organization of the Cofán indigenous community in the province of Sucumbios through the delimitation and legalization of their territories. This was completed within the framework of an agreement between the Foundation for the Survival of the Cofán People and IOM during 2001 and 2003. The project consisted of the delimitation of three blocks (Zábalo-Guepii, Sinangoe-Ccuccono and San Miguel-Bermejo) that belong to the Cofán reserve; the equipping of physical infrastructure for control and monitoring; the political incidence for the recognition of the rights of use, management, and control of those territories, be it through property rights or the establishment of Community Reserves or other types of agreements within the National System for Protected Land Areas.

31. Between 2001 and 2004, through a cooperation agreement between IOM and Fondo Ecuatoriano Populorum Progressio, a project was carried out for the legalization of property rights of indigenous communities and peasant colonist families in the Province of Sucumbios. Activities included the bordering of lots, carrying out legal procedures for indigenous communities, inspection visits by El Instituto Nacionál de Desarrollo Agrario and the Ministry of Environment to communities and peasant farms, as well as the creation of a credit fund that could support families in the future. In total, 13 Quichua and 5 Shuar communities obtained property titles.

32. Other projects included the building of productive and social infrastructure projects to support indigenous peoples. Such activities have included the building of 10 pedestrian bridges benefiting 4,400 members of the Awa community in 2002, provision and training on the use and maintenance of three potable water systems in the areas of Balzayacu and Atahualpa in 2005, benefiting 1,250 Quichua and the Regional Sindy community; and potable water systems of Guadalito and Esmeraldas for 120 members of the Awa indigenous community. In 2007, IOM and the World Food Programme (WFP) signed a long-term cooperation agreement, until the year 2010, to carry out projects along Ecuador's northern border region, with a focus on the Federation of Awa Indigenous Communities of Ecuador. The first of the projects includes the rehabilitation of three schools in San Lorenzo, Esmeraldas Province; health education materials for the health centre in Lita, Imbabura Province; and the rehabilitation of 3 health posts and the construction of 10 additional posts in the family and community health system.

Colombia

33. The general objective of the IOM mission in Colombia towards ethnic groups, including indigenous communities, is to collaborate with State entities, humanitarian, human rights and development organizations committed to promoting and guaranteeing the exercise of the rights of indigenous peoples as well as Afro-Colombians in response to the needs of those populations. IOM-Colombia seeks to continue strengthening the strategy with the aim of providing a framework for the effective incorporation of an ethnic group's approach in the actions, programmes, projects and other initiatives carried out by IOM with governmental, departmental and municipal entities. IOM-Colombia's strategy is to include the participation of beneficiaries, counterparts from the private and public sector and civil society in order for the process to be inclusive and thereby inculcate a culture of transparency and good governance. Areas prioritized by IOM include education, health care, strengthening of institutions and communities, housing and infrastructure and income-generation.

34. IOM-Colombia has a full-time ethnic minorities specialist whose role includes working with indigenous peoples. During 2007, a differential approach in initiatives involving indigenous and Afro-Colombian groups was developed and formalized, which recognizes the principles of specificity, identity, equity, equality, participation, representation, impartiality, inter-ethnic relations and ethnic minorities' leadership. This approach is geared towards strengthening the cultural identity and the institutions of ethnic groups, promoting their effective participation and ensuring that ethnic groups benefit from the gains of well-being achieved by the society as a whole.

35. IOM-Colombia recognizes the need to include specific cultural characteristics of those communities in education, housing, health and productive services. Access to land, education, employment and basic services go hand in hand with their social and cultural needs. Those needs include respect for cultural identity (such as indigenous health practices and adaptation of the school curricula to cultural specificities), the possibility to actively participate in local and national decision-making, and concerns about discrimination as an obstacle in the access and fulfilment of their basic needs. IOM-Colombia has developed detailed guidelines for the inclusion of a differential approach for projects to be distributed to project implementers. Specific indicators for ethnic minorities, including indigenous

groups, will be created using that document. IOM-Colombia has also participated in the definition of criteria to be used to reward companies implementing social responsibility policies with ethnic minorities, organized by the Vice-Minister for Labour in the Ministry of Social Protection.

36. More specifically, the policy of IOM in programming considers the following aspects as key to success: (a) people are recognized as key actors in their own development, rather than passive recipients of commodities and services; (b) participation is both a means and a goal; (c) strategies are empowering, not disempowering; (d) both outcomes and processes are monitored and evaluated; (e) analysis includes all stakeholders; (f) the development process is locally owned; (g) programmes aim to reduce disparity; (h) both top-down and bottom-up approaches are used in synergy; (i) situation analysis is used to identify immediate, underlying and basic causes of development problems; (j) measurable goals and targets are important in programming; (k) strategic partnerships are developed and sustained; and (l) programmes support accountability to stakeholders.

37. Regarding the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals by indigenous peoples, IOM-Colombia recognizes that poverty parameters do not adequately reflect the realities of many indigenous peoples. In response, IOM-Colombia is continuously providing support in strengthening effective participation and promoting indigenous individual and collective rights, reflected in the mission's principles for the application of the differential approach. More specifically, IOM-Colombia's strategy aims to: (a) mainstream ethnic minorities' rights into all strategies through applying a differential approach to overcome discrimination; (b) ensure participation of ethnic minorities in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of projects; (c) disaggregate data; (d) creation of specific performance indicators; and (e) provide appropriate guidelines and training on the rights of ethnic minorities for IOM staff.

38. IOM-Colombia's Assistance Programme for Displaced People and Vulnerable Groups (Assistance Programme), in partnership with the United States Agency for International Development, includes the project Protection of Land and Patrimonial Assets of Displaced Populations in Colombia, which has prioritized the differential approach for gender and ethnic minorities, including indigenous communities. More specifically, community and institutional capacity strengthening for the protection of territorial rights of ethnic groups affected by displacement in the Colombian Pacific Coast occurred in the following areas:

(a) Department of Chocó, Tadó municipality, the Alto San Juan area where the indigenous reservations of Bochoroma, Mondo, Tarena and Peñas del Olvido are located and which groups eight indigenous communities belonging to the Embera Wounan Regional Organization;

(b) Department of Nariño, Olaya Herrera, Franciso Pizarro (Salahonda) and Charco municipalities where the indigenous reservations of Eperara Siapidara de Rio Satinga, La Floresta-Santa Rosa, Sanquianguita, Integrado del Charco, San Juan Pampón and San Agustín are located and which groups 12 indigenous communities;

(c) Department of Cauca, Timbiqui municipality, where the Eperara Siapidara de la calle de Santa Rosa indigenous reservation is located and which groups two indigenous communities;

The community and institutional capacity strengthening in those regions includes basic training in ethnic legislation and design of a booklet for indigenous communities which will examine the legal framework that supports their organizations.

39. There are several other projects that are a part of the Assistance Programme, some of which are highlighted below:

(a) The project Strengthening of the contingency strategy against forced displacement of the Indigenous Council of the Kwet Wala Reserve was established within the Framework Agreement with the Valle del Cauca Governor's Office. This project aims to strengthen the Kwet Wala indigenous reservation through support and consolidation of their contingency plan against forced displacement. Activities include the construction and equipping of a community centre which can be used as temporary shelter and a protection area, and which in the future will continue to be used for permanent assemblies, community encounters and education activities for both children and adults;

(b) The project Humanitarian Emergency Assistance to the Awa Indigenous population through the implementation of infant assistance is meant to improve the conditions of the displaced population in emergency situations of the Awa community with the implementation of the Colombian Institute of Family Welfare programmes;

(c) The project for the construction of houses on individually owned land — the Raymundo Chapuel Males Indigenous Reserve — will facilitate the construction of 42 houses in accordance with the traditions of the Pastos indigenous community. The initiative will assist in the prevention of forced displacement in the reservation;

(d) The project for the establishment of family gardens using organoponico technology for families belonging to displaced and vulnerable populations was established within the Framework Agreement with the Mayor's Office of Mocoa, Putumayo. The project aims to implement urban and peri-urban agricultural production initiatives aimed at improving food security for 300 families belonging to displaced and vulnerable populations, including indigenous families of the Yunguillo reserve. Included in the project are training courses in urban or peri-urban agriculture with thematic complements in leadership, community strengthening, nutritional education and consumption habits and food preparation;

(e) Regarding indigenous women, the projects Support to rural housing projects for displaced population and Support to co-financing for formulation of rural housing projects presented in the request for proposals for rural social housing subsidies for internally displaced persons, both assist heads of households that are indigenous women. The two projects contribute towards the improvement of the standard of living and also reduce overcrowding and the deficit of quantitative and qualitative housing for internally displaced families.

40. As part of the Post-Emergency Attention to Internally Displaced Populations in Colombia (Post-Emergency Programme), in partnership with Acción Social, displaced indigenous families are among those that are included in the Single Displaced Persons Registration System, and are eligible for economic stabilization services offered by the National System for Integral Assistance to Displaced Populations.

41. Many projects in the Support Programme for Ex-Combatant Children, in partnership with the United States Agency for International Development, target indigenous youth with the aim of preventing their recruitment into illegal armed groups, and supporting the return processes of indigenous and Afro-Colombian children and youths disengaged from such groups. The programme identifies and supports development opportunities and fosters coordination with authorities to preserve culture identity. Some projects in this programme include:

(a) Strengthening the traditional knowledge and practice of the Pastos indigenous group around the *Shagra* as an ancestral space to strengthen the sense of belonging and pride of indigenous roots among children and adolescents and discourage them from engaging in illicit activities. The initiative provides support in the creation and structuring of an integral education-participation model, where the *Shagra* is the centre of understanding the traditions, beliefs and customs of indigenous communities;

(b) In cooperation with the Colombia Institute of Family Welfare, another project focuses on creating opportunities for social inclusion and mitigation of threats to recruitment into illegal armed groups for Sikuanis indigenous children and youth in the Wacoyo reserve. This is being carried out through the implementation of a pedagogic-productive project where traditional knowledge is being used together with appropriate technologies in order to achieve sustainable productive systems and also strengthen the social fabric;

(c) Indigenous youth belonging to the Guambianos, Paeces and Yanoconas communities in the Silvia, Toes and Sotará municipalities, Department of Cauca are also the focus of a project that supports fostering community economic initiatives oriented at their self-sufficiency in order to avoid recruitment into illegal armed groups. The indigenous youth are highly involved in the initiative which also has a strong gender perspective. Another project aimed at indigenous youth in the Department of Cauca aims at strengthening 10 agricultural and livestock colleges and ethno-education by improving the quality of agricultural and livestock technical education and its pertinence to rural development;

(d) For the Arhauco indigenous community in Pueblo Bello Municipality, Department of Cesar, opportunities for economic development and food security will help reduce the vulnerability of youth who are at risk of being recruited into illegal armed groups. A project to produce soap and essential oils is currently being implemented using native aromatic plants species and involving indigenous youth as an economic strategy against recruitment into illegal armed groups. The initiative also provides social insertion opportunities to ex-combatant youth;

(e) In San Antonio de los Palmitos Municipality, Montes de Maria, Department of Sucre, a project endeavours to strengthen youth participation and organization, recuperation of cultural identity and implementation of productive projects, including through implementing a project to produce type of straw using traditional methods that involves youth and families belonging to the Zenú indigenous group;

(f) Zenú indigenous and Afro-Colombian youth also participate in the Youth Leadership School in Montes de Maria, engaging in training and strengthening youth organization and participation.

42. The Emergency Assistance Programme for Colombians in Search of International Protection in Ecuadorian, Panamanian and Venezuelan Border Areas with Colombia, in partnership with the United States Agency for International Development, provides indigenous communities with effective short-term direct emergency assistance and capacity-building of local civil society organizations to address basic human needs, including water, sanitation, hygiene, food security, nutrition, shelter, health services, education and income-generation activities. Parts of the programme also concentrate on capacity-building initiatives for local organizations in order for them to provide better and quicker responses to emergencies. Some ongoing and completed activities include:

(a) Providing emergency humanitarian assistance to the Awa indigenous group seeking international protection in Chica;

(b) Improvement of the Carlos Azuero Añasco School as an alternative shelter for water and sanitation and improvement of the potable water system at Santa Rosa de Cascales for the Quichua indigenous community;

(c) Support to the Quichua and Siona indigenous groups through the provision of emergency educational kits to the border schools;

(d) Assistance and support for documentation and registration to the Refugee Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

43. The social marketing unit of IOM-Colombia works to improve the stability of vulnerable communities in Colombia by assessing sustainable income-generation projects implemented by producers belonging to vulnerable groups who were victims of human trafficking, anti-personnel mines, internal displacement and illegal armed groups. Marketing projects include the Anei organic coffee produced by the Arhauco indigenous group of Sierra Nevada and the essential oils and handmade soaps produced by the Seymukekun Association (a group comprising young indigenous peoples belonging to the Arhauco indigenous community of Sierra Nevada) using native plant species of Sierra Nevada, Santa Marta.

44. Personnel-related activities of IOM-Colombia with respect to indigenous peoples include an equal opportunity policy for ethnic groups for personnel recruitment as well as in the election of project implementing entities and coordinating the internship programme for students from ethnic minorities to be implemented in seven of its regional offices. Terms of reference have also been created for ethnic minorities' focal points in programmes. The monitoring and evaluation unit of IOM-Colombia is providing support in the identification of best practices and lessons learned in projects implemented with ethnic minorities which include indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities; the creation of specific indicators to evaluate the differential approach towards ethnic minorities during the full project cycle in programmes and projects implemented by the mission; and the collection of disaggregated data on ethnic groups from the various programmes implemented by IOM-Colombia. By March 2008, the IOM-Colombia website[2] section on ethnic minorities will have updated information on all ongoing and finalized projects with beneficiaries from ethnic minorities, including indigenous communities.

[2] See http://oim.org.co/modulos/contenido/default.asp?idmodulo=11&idioma=ing.

H. Capacity-building on indigenous issues

45. IOM has a number of headquarters and field personnel who are actively engaged in indigenous issues and/or projects. A formal capacity-building programme is highlighted under section G above on IOM-Colombia.

I. Information regarding activities on the goals, objectives and programme of action of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

46. The projects highlighted under section G above encapsulate a number of IOM activities that are relevant to the Programme of Action for the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People in the areas of culture, education, health, human rights, the environment, and social and economic development.

J. Information and suggestions regarding the special theme of the seventh session of the Permanent Forum

47. While there are a number of factors that displace indigenous peoples from their lands and territories, climate change brings about its own specific challenges that demand the attention of the international community to respond to what has been called environmental migration. The environmental migration of indigenous peoples may be caused by the gradual environmental degradation of their lands, resources and territories or may be caused by sudden and extreme climatic events, such as a landslide or flooding. In either case, the marginalization of indigenous peoples is a key social determinant in worsening the impact of those phenomena.

48. According to research, indigenous peoples' lands face more vulnerability owing in some cases to their remoteness, and because a number of indigenous communities rely heavily on their territories for their livelihood. Thus, indigenous peoples are faced with the initial and harshest impacts of climate change, which prompt their migration or displacement. Also, extractive industries or major development works may generate adverse effects on the environment in which indigenous people live. In cases where the survival of indigenous peoples depends on seasonal crops, fishing seasons, and other resources from their bio-diverse territories, the impacts of climate change, including the destruction of the ecology and livelihood, has forced indigenous communities to migrate. Many of them, because of their intrinsic cultural ties to their lands, may opt for temporary or circular migration for work to generate supplementary income through remittances. However, as environmental degradation continues, many may be faced with permanent migration due to the loss of their territories.

49. In their host destination, indigenous peoples may face double discrimination as both migrants and as indigenous peoples. Because of the discrimination or isolation already felt by indigenous peoples, their need to migrate owing to environmental factors may be hampered by limited legal migration options. With limited opportunities to make an informed choice to migrate, or because of sudden displacement by a climatic event, indigenous peoples may be more vulnerable to forced migration, such as trafficking and smuggling.

50. Indigenous communities can play an important role in preserving the sustainability of their environment and ecosystem and prevent their economic dislocation and physical displacement. For this, they must become co-authors of any plans to counteract the adverse effects of climate change on their environment. Furthermore, for centuries indigenous peoples have relied on their traditional knowledge to sustain their lifestyles and their territories, and it is for this reason that indigenous peoples must be involved in all plans regarding the preservation of their lands and of local wildlife, including plans to prevent deforestation, drought or the extinction of certain plants and animals.

51. More specifically, in Colombia, IOM recognizes the role that indigenous people and other ethnic minorities have played and continue to play in the conservation of the environment. Indigenous and Afro-Colombian populations in rural areas of Colombia are highly dependent on the existing resources in their territories and, at the same time, their traditional knowledge plays an important role in the conservation of those resources. IOM promotes the use of traditional knowledge in projects involving those populations, and provides institutional support for the recognition and respect of their environmental and territorial rights in national and international legal legislation and, consequently, their effect on environmental protection. IOM also supports the recognition and effective application of the rights of indigenous people to their natural resources, including genetic resources, and their knowledge, technologies, traditional practices and innovations, and supports the full and effective participation of representatives of ethnic minorities in international meetings in which matters relating to land, territories and environment are discussed. Ultimately, actions that lead to the adverse effects of climate change need to be reversed in order for indigenous peoples not to be forced to migrate for environmental reasons.

K. List of conferences and other meetings on indigenous issues in 2007-2008

52. In January 2008, IOM participated in the Expert Group Meeting on Indigenous Languages which was organized by the secretariat of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

53. The focal point for ethnic groups and indigenous issues for IOM-Colombia also participates in meetings and events in Colombia. These include the Committee for the promotion of participation of ethnic minorities in national labour policies within the Ministry of Social Protection, the United States Agency for International Development inter-institutional Committee on Afro-Colombian issues, and the Working Group for Afro-Colombian Issues under the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.